

REMARKS

Reexamination and further and favorable reconsideration of the subject application, in light of the following remarks, is respectfully requested. Specifically, Applicants note that the art cited is not prior to their invention, and is not otherwise a statutory bar.

OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAWINGS

The drawings were objected to because Figures 6 and 7 should have been designated as --Prior Art--. Figures 6 and 7 have been labeled as --Prior Art-- in the Letter to Official Draftsman filed concurrently herewith. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-3, 10-12, 15, 20-23 AND 25-27 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(A) AND (E)

Claims 1-3, 10-12, 15, 20-23 and 25-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) and (e) as purportedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0136789 (**Bolzer et al.**). Applicants submit herewith a Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, establishing an actual reduction to practice in advance of the indicated effective date of their reference. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 4-9, 13-19, 24 AND 28 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A)

Claims 4 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over **Bolzer et al.** in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,639,164 (**Pugnale et al.**). Claims 5-9 and 14-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over **Bolzer et al.** in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,936,705 (**Schneider**). Claims 24 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over **Bolzer et al.**

The executed Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 by Mike Zais and Cary Etter, appended hereto, overcomes these rejections as well, and withdrawal is requested.

CONCLUSION

All outstanding issues have been resolved by amendment or otherwise overcome by argument. As the claims are in condition for allowance an early and favorable action thereon is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference could advance prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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